Utilisation of Surplus gas from HBJ gas pipeline

765. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas available from HBJ gas pipeline is not being fully utilised;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish gas based petro chemical Industries along the HBJ Pipeline in Rajasthan to utilize the surplus gas ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) The HBJ gas pipeline has a capacity to transport about 18 million cubic metres per day of gas. Supplies were to be made to six fertilizer plants and two power stations along this line. Three of these six fertilizer plants are yet to come up. In addition, gas was subsequently committed in 1988 to two more power stations, one of which has started taking gas while the other is scheduled to be commissioned next year. In view of the delay in establishment of 3 fertilizer plants and reduced offtake by the power plants, the capacity of HBJ Pipeline has not been fully utilised.

(c) No, Sir.

Potentialities of cement industries in the Kota-Chittor region of Rajasthan

766. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) inview of new broad gauge railway line between Kota and Chittor in Rajasthan, wheher Government propose to undertake an intensive survey of the . region to find the potentilities of. . cement industries in the area; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI A.JIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The 'National Inventory of Cement Grade Limestone Deposits in India' compiled by the National Council for cement and Building Materials, indicates limestone deposits to be existing in the districts of Chittorgarh and Bundi in the vicinity of this broad-gauge railway line. As of now, four large cement plants with a combined capacity of 26.4 lakh tonnes per annum are in production in Chittorgarh and Kota districts and a further capacity of 12 lakh tonnes a per annum has also been approved Applications for cement plants in this area, as and when received, are being considered on merit.

लघु इकाइयों को कतिपय सुविधायें दिये जानें के लिए "एसोचेम' से सुझाव

767. श्री शांति त्यागी : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को एसोचैम" से एक ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि लघु इकाइयों को लघु क्षेत्र से अलग किया जाना चाहिए और उन्हें खादी व ग्रामोद्योग के समकक्ष सुविधाए दी जानी चाहिए; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?